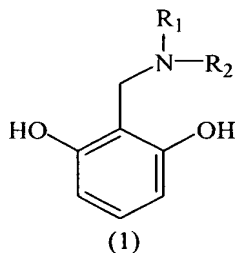


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom,  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  alkyl,  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  mono or dihydroxyalkyl, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl, amino or  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  alkoxy group, and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  mono or dihydroxyalkyl and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl or amino ~~or~~  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  alkoxy group, or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a  $C_3$  to  $C_6$  saturated or unsaturated ring containing in the ring one or more additional hetero atoms selected from O, S and N atoms.

2. (Currently amended) A compound of Claim 1 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  alkyl group, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with an alkoxy group, and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of phenyl ~~or~~ and benzyl ~~optionally substituted with an alkoxy group~~, or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a piperazine, imidazole, or morpholine ring.

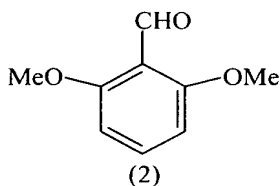
3. (Original) A compound of Claim 2 wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen and  $R_2$  is phenyl.

4. (Canceled)

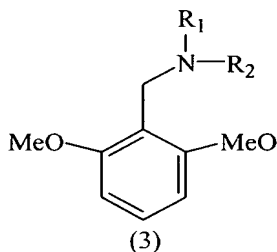
5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

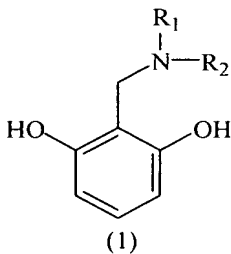
7. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) of Claim 1 comprising (a) reacting an ~~an 2,5-dimethoxy-benzaldehyde~~ 2,6-dimethoxy-benzaldehyde of formula (2)



with a reagent of the formula  $R_1R_2NH$  and a reductive amination reducing agent to produce a compound of formula (3)



and (b) deprotecting the compound of formula (3) by reacting with a deprotection agent producing a compound of formula (1):



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are as defined in Claim 1.

8. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 7 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a  $C_1$  to  $C_3$  alkyl group, and phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with an alkoxy group, and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of a phenyl or and benzyl ~~optionally substituted with an alkoxy group~~, or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a piperazine, imidazole, or morpholine ring.

9. (Original) A process according to Claim 2 wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen and  $R_2$  is phenyl.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
- 2-phenylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-piperidin-1-yl-methyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-(pyridin-3-yl-aminomethyl)-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-dimethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-dihydroxyethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-hydroxymethylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-imidazolin-1-yl-methyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-morpholin-4-yl-methyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-benzylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol;
  - 2-aminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol; and
  - 2-(2-methoxy)phenylaminomethyl-benzene-1,3-diol.